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Another factor contributing to the reduction of costs was the progress made in technology. There had been a great many rejects in the casting of bushings for piston rings, liners, and sleeves. The plant built a centrifugal casting machine, and set up a shop for its work. The quality of the centrifugally cast bushings was considerably higher than those cast in sand. During a short time, the productivity of labor in the centrifugal casting shop nearly tripled, so that the cost of casting was reduced 50 percent.

Following the example of the 88 Moscow enterprise, the plant decided to utilize the auxiliary working space belonging to the foundry and turned it over to a cleaning and core-making section. Casting output increased by hundreds of tons, while the increased volume of production lowered costs.

At one time, insufficient transportation means caused a stoppage of some heavy machines. A crane was installed. The stoppage was eliminated, production was increased, costs reduced.

Hard-alloy tools are playing their part in the reduction of costs. There is still much to be accomplished in this field, but by the beginning of this year ten lathes and two milling machines were turned over to high-speed methods, and 37 parts were being turned out under high-speed methods.

Another radical change was the alteration of the steam-pipe system. Formerly it was set in the ground, and therefore the repairs were difficult and costly. There were also considerable heat losses from the main lines. The plant raised the system above ground, and put insulation material around the pipes and boilers, thereby realizing a great saving.

A fuel-oil preheater designed by Yegorov, the plant's chief power engineer, and a number of other innovations in power equipment and technology saved the plant 125 tons of fuel in 1949.

The electric motors, installed in the machine tools in the machine shop, were of greater capacity than the machines required. Since this lowered the power factor and wasted electricity, some of the old motors were replaced with ones of lower power. At the same time, the electric circuit was repaired to reduce current leaks and induction motors were synchronized.

The plant plans to install more molding machines, console cranes, and other equipment, and to broaden the application of pneumatic tamping.

Shop accounting systems also helped to reduce costs. The forge shop, for example, formerly received only production tasks and their time limits. No one in the shop was interested in the costs of finished forgings. When plans were sent to the shop which provided for payment of bonuses to the workers in relation to the fulfillment of a cost schedule, the method of work in the shop was radically changed; metal and fuel were more economically used, an effort was made to cut down losses of working time, and strict cost accounting was instituted.

The Kishlinskiy Plant was recently begun to follow the example set by the Plant imeni Shmidt of relieving operators without stopping the machines.

NEW MACHINES TO AID IN LAYING PIPE LINES -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 1 Aug 50

The Leningrad Machinery Plant of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry has put out several experimental models of a new machine for cutting horizontal oil- and gas-line trenches. It has also put out experimental traveling cranes of several tons' capacity, designed for construction work, and truck cranes for light earth-moving work.

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The Ministry's Moscow Machinery Plant produced over 100 machines to be used in the mechanization of plastering operations during the first quarter of this year. It also considerably surpassed the planned production of cranes for that period.

FOUNDERS LEAD PLANT EFFORT -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 17 Aug 50

The foundry of the Machinery Plant of the Aktyubneft' Trust is exceeding its norms 120 percent, leading the other shops of the plant. Praiseworthy efforts are noted in the machinery-assembly shop, and the forge shop.

NEARLY EVERY WORKER EXCEEDS HIS NORM -- Riga, Sovetskaya Litva, 23 Aug 50

The Baku Plant imeni Budenny was the first of the Azneftemash Trust plants to meet the 8-month plan ahead of time. In comparison with the same period of last year, the plant has cut the costs of its products 22 percent, and has increased production by 3 million rubles' worth of petroleum-extraction equipment. Nine out of ten workers have completed 5-15 yearly norms since the start of the current Five-Year Plan.

OPEN-HEARTH WORKERS EXCEED NORMS -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 25 Aug 50

An open-hearth furnace brigade at the Baku Plant imeni Lieutenant Shmidt is smelting several tons of metal above plan daily.

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